

cuts were made without consideration by the full Agriculture Committee to determine how this will effect risk-management services farmers in Kansas rely upon. With nearly every county in Kansas being declared as a federal disaster area in 2007, we should think long and hard about cuts to the federal crop insurance program. It is disappointing that Democrat leadership chose to make this cut without first considering what it will mean for America's farmers.

Another harmful provision included last-minute in the farm bill would apply Davis-Bacon act wages to new ethanol plants being built if those plants utilize loans or grants from the USDA. This provision negates any positive benefit that would have been provided by the USDA's loan guarantee program. By artificially dictating what wages have to be paid to workers constructing a new ethanol plant, the farm bill will result in increased ethanol costs. This translates to higher costs at the pump for consumers of ethanol-blended gasoline. Instead of allowing price competition for newly constructed ethanol plants that access USDA loans or grants, this artificial wage provision is another example of unnecessary federal manipulation in a private-market matter.

I am also disappointed the bill included a prohibition on States being able to use private contractors to perform administrative functions for the food stamp program. States that choose to enact reforms within their systems to provide better food-stamp services at a savings to taxpayers are denied that ability under H.R. 2419. Rather than defer to States and allow some common-sense savings for taxpayers, the Democrats have drafted a farm bill that restricts certain reforms at the State level.

The commodity title of H.R. 2419 proposes a commodity spending cut of 42 percent compared with the 2002 farm bill. The 2007 farm bill proposes \$42 billion in baseline spending on commodities, representing just 14 percent of the entire farm bill. I think Kansas farmers deserve better.

As a State that is renowned for being the breadbasket of the world, Kansas and its farmers deserve a farm bill that provides a solid safety net while remaining fiscally responsible to taxpayers. I do not believe this \$297 billion farm bill meets this standard. And as my colleague from Kansas, Mr. MORAN, has pointed out, this farm bill fails to fully implement a revenue counter-cyclical program that would better respond to Kansas farmers in times when they need support the most.

I urge my colleagues to join me today in voting against H.R. 2419. The American farmer, the American taxpayer and the American worker deserve a better farm bill. I can only hope negotiations with the Senate will address this bill's shortcomings and that the House will have another opportunity to vote on comprehensive farm policy that is good for all Americans.

HONORING THE CITY OF MIDDLETON, WISCONSIN AS THE
"BEST PLACE TO LIVE 2007"

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the City of Middleton as the

"Best Place to Live 2007," a title presented by Money Magazine that mirrors the thriving civic, commercial, residential, and natural centers of the community.

Middleton, Wisconsin, the "Good Neighbor City," is deserving of this honor as a reflection of the vibrant community it has become since its founding in 1856. The furtrading post that was opened in 1832 by the area's first carpenter, Michael St. Cyr, along with the arrival of the railroad in 1856 and the train depot, Middleton Station, that followed, served as town hubs that encouraged neighborhood growth and subsequent business prosperity.

Today, as a testament of this award, Middleton is flourishing. While Middleton residents still treasure the historic structures of the past, such as the Old Stamm House, a former station on The Underground Railroad, they also are looking forward. At present Middleton is the corporate headquarters for American Girl, Capital Brewery, Electronic Theatre Controls, ETC, and Springs Window Fashions, LLC.

There exist numerous elements that are keys to the community's success, including the Middleton-Cross Plains area school district and its high level of academic and cocurricular achievements; an outstanding performing arts center; 25 percent of land mass designated as "green space;" the home of Middleton Hills, the first "new urbanism" subdivision of the Midwest; a regional employment center; and superb public amenities, including a nationally recognized library, a nationally-accredited senior center, a historical museum, and abundant parks, to name a few.

As the "Best Place to Live 2007," the City of Middleton has much for which it should be proud. I look forward to watching the community as it continues to grow and builds upon the strong foundation that its residents, businesses, and employees have created for themselves.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF
JOSEPH NICHOLAS ESPINOZA

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, we rise today with great sorrow to honor the life of Joseph Nicholas Espinoza of Sacramento, California, who died in a tragic accident on July 23, 2007.

Joseph Espinoza was known to his family and friends as Joey. At a family dinner on May 25th, he celebrated his 21st birthday. He was 'best friend' to his brother John, his sister Marina, his cousins Sean, Connor and Michael, and his girlfriend Gina. He admired his father, confided in his mother and always sought their loving advice. He was a musician and an athlete, and was gifted in math and science, and his goal was to become an architect.

Joey was loved and always will be by his childhood friends and their families. His family knew that he was honest and earnest, that he had great energy and a tender and generous heart. He was open and trusting and was the keeper of the secrets of many who counted on his encouragement and courage.

Joey is survived by his parents Kate and John Espinoza of Sacramento, his brother John, and his sisters Marina, Kelly Rose,

Jeannie and Mendi. He leaves his loving grandmothers Rose King and Rose Espinoza and he is mourned by his many aunts, uncles and cousins of his parents' families.

Madam Speaker, we hope this tribute to Joey will be a source of comfort to his family. We have known and treasured his grandmother, Rose King, for almost 40 years and we share her immeasurable grief. She has been the great anchor of her family and she has contributed mightily to the well being of Californians through her dedicated public service spanning many decades.

Our Nation has lost a precious citizen and we ask today that the entire House of Representatives join us in honoring the life of Joseph Nicholas Espinoza and extend to his grieving family our deepest sympathy.

IN SUPPORT OF AMENDMENT TO
H.R. 3093 REQUIRING USE OF
"ENERGY STAR" LIGHT BULBS

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, I would like to commend Representative JANE HARMAN (D-CA) and Representative FRED UPTON (R-MI) for their unfailing hard work and dedication to the issue of light bulb efficiency in the United States Congress. Their leadership in this area has greatly contributed to our national effort to prevent global climate change and reduce our dependence on foreign energy sources. Recently Ms. HARMAN and Mr. UPTON offered an amendment to H.R. 3093, the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2008. This amendment prohibited funds to be used to purchase light bulbs unless the light bulb has the "ENERGY STAR" or "Federal Energy Management Program" designation. During this vote, Rollcall 738, I erroneously voted against the measure which I wholeheartedly support.

Since indoor and outdoor lighting accounts for up to fifteen percent of energy use in the average residence, inefficient light bulbs can consume large amounts of excess energy.

With the advent of compact fluorescent light bulbs, Americans have been given an alternative to inefficient incandescent bulbs which waste up to ninety-five percent of consumed energy as heat. These long-lasting high-efficiency fluorescent light bulbs provide equivalent illumination as incandescent light bulbs, so neither comfort nor convenience is sacrificed in this energy-saving endeavor. However, they consume up to sixty-six percent less energy, leading to major decreases in energy bills. By simply replacing the light bulbs in their homes, our constituents will be saving money in addition to energy.

Ms. HARMAN and Mr. UPTON have empowered Americans with an uncomplicated, affordable plan that offers only benefits to both individuals and our nation as a whole. As we look to renewable energy sources to minimize our foreign oil dependence and increase national security, each citizen can do his or her part both at home and at work with the nearly effortless action of changing a light bulb.